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**TESTIMONY RE: RAISED BILL NO. 459, AN ACT PROMOTING THE EARLY
DETECTION, DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF LUNG CANCER, BREAST
CANCER AND CERVICAL CANCER.**

**Public Health Committee Hearing
March 3, 2008**

To: Senator Handley, Representative Sayers and members of the Public Health Committee.

From: Connecticut Nurses' Association

Thank-you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Connecticut Nurses' Association (CNA), the professional organization for registered nurses in Connecticut. We are providing SUPPORT of Raised Bill No. 459, AN ACT PROMOTING THE EARLY DETECTION, DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF LUNG CANCER, BREAST CANCER AND CERVICAL CANCER

Inherent in nursing practice is the prevention of illness and the health and safety of the public. We support this bill that will provide prevention programs and initiatives that are a component piece of the state's comprehensive cancer plan.

As Connecticut struggles to staff our health care facilities and bring about health care reform which must have as a core principle prevention activities, we can, through this legislation provide opportunities for prevention, early detection and treatment. It is more costly to treat disease than to promote wellness and prevention. Our health care system has focused for too long on ill-care rather than integrating at every point education and prevention. Connecticut's health care system needs the foundation of programs and services that will be available through this legislation which will help to refocus our resources on prevention.

We urge the committee's support of this important legislation.